

THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE
November 27th ~ 11:00 a.m.
Pieterskerk ~ Leiden

We hope you will join us at this non-denominational service on Thanksgiving morning at the historic Pieterskerk. There will be a Catholic priest, Protestant ministers, a rabbi and a cantor.

Bring your Dutch friends and friends from all nations and of all faiths.
This is a service for everyone!

For Americans, Thanksgiving at the Pieterskerk in Leiden is unique. In that church, the Pilgrims recorded their births, marriages and deaths. They lived in its surroundings from 1609 to 1620. Some of the descendants of Moses Fletcher, a Leiden Pilgrim and subsequently a signer of the Mayflower Compact, still live there. Ria Koet, his direct descendant, will tell the story of her family. The Koets are the only non-American members of the Mayflower Society.

On the occasion of the first visit of a sitting American President to The Netherlands, President George H.W. Bush, the Pieterskerk was the chosen site. The Bush family trace their ancestry to Francis Cooke, also a signer of the Mayflower Compact and a Leiden pilgrim. President Obama also has family roots in Leiden – the Blossom Family.

In Leiden, one feels how inextricably the values of the American nation are linked with The Netherlands. The story of a group of English dissenters who were welcomed there and able to live and worship freely and even publish at a time when freedom of religion and the press were certainly not the norm, is a Dutch story and the story of America and the aspiration of millions today.

American singers resident in the Netherlands will “lift up their voices” and the congregation will sing familiar hymns. Coincidentally, one of them, “We Gather Together,” is originally Dutch, “Wilt Heden Nu Treden.”

The Mayor of Leiden, the Honorable Henri J. J. Lenferink, will speak as well as the American Ambassador to the Netherlands, Timothy Broas who will also share excerpts from the President’s Thanksgiving Proclamation. JAKK, the select choral group from the American School will sing and the concert band will play. The Scouts of all ages and the “Little Pilgrims” will be there to welcome everyone.

You won’t forget Thanksgiving in Leiden! Join us. *“I would not omit to mention I felt a respect and veneration upon entering the church at Leiden.” ~ Abigail Adams*

Roberta Enschede

Sponsored by OAR ~ Overseas Americans Remember
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CAR POOL, if possible.

COOKIES - Please bring some cookies for the coffee after the service !